

POLITICAL ARRESTS HIT REGINA



DEFENCE WITNESSES ARE NEEDED
IF YOU WERE AT THE DEMONSTRATION
AND ARE WILLING TO WITNESS FOR THE
DEFENCE
CALL 522-0207 OR 523-1076
AND LEAVE YOUR PARTICULARS

THIS IS THEREFORE TO COMMAND YOU, in Her Majesty's name, to appear before
Judge of the Magistrate's Court

on Tuesday the 16th day of June A.D. 1970
at 10:00 am o'clock in the forenoon
at 1770 Halifax St., Regina, Sask.
or before any Justice for the said Province who is there, to answer to the said charge and
to be dealt with according to law.

Dated this 9th day of June A.D. 1970
at Regina in the Province of Saskatchewan.

.....
A Justice of the Peace in and for Saskatchewan.

In a startling new offensive against dissident groups in the city, summonses were issued against 12 persons in Regina. All of the 12 are charged with 'participating in a riot' and several of the arrested persons were charged with additional offences, including the obstruction of a police officer and causing a disturbance by swearing. In all, 19 charges were laid by Regina City Police and it is possible that more are to come, according to Police Chief Arthur Cookson.

The police served the summonses early on the morning of June 10 on those who were available, but several of the potential arrestees were not available to receive their summonses. There are still two summonses outstanding for individuals whom the police have yet to identify.

The other 10 summonses have either been served or identified already, although as of Saturday, only 7 of the 12 had been served.

Those arrested were from groups in the city that Cookson and others have implicitly identified over the past year or so as the root of trouble in Regina. These include the Carillon, the Prairie Fire, the Union of American Deserters, and the Group W coffee house. An organizer for a political group widely discussed in the bourgeois press as the Maoists was also arrested.

The summonses were issued one month after a demonstration took place at Sheldon-Williams Auditorium to protest the presence of the U.S. Army Band and Chorus.

At that time, almost a hundred demonstrators, including many older people, picketed, handed out

leaflets and finally tried to prevent the concert from taking place. The demonstrators tried to speak to the audience, consisting mainly of Kinsmen, to explain why they opposed bringing the Chorus of the U.S. Army to Regina while the rest of the army is engaged in a brutal war in SouthEast Asia. They were viciously attacked by a number of the Kinsmen.

Several of the women protesters were assaulted by the Kinsmen, although they did fairly well in defending themselves against the aggressors.

The summonses were issued at the same time as a couple of public statements by Chief Arthur Cookson as to the source of the immorality of young people. As far as he saw it, it could be nothing less than an 'international organization'.

Cookson also singled out the University for special attacks, claiming "We've got Maoists, Marxists, Cheists (presumably referring to Che Guevara), Freudists...any kind of ist."

As far as the Prairie Fire can determine, no charges have been laid against the offending Kinsmen, though several demonstrators have said they would press such charges if they are able to identify their assailants again.

The summonses require that those charged appear in Magistrates' Court, at the Police Station (1770 Halifax Street) at 10 a.m., Tuesday June 16.

"There may well be a demonstration Tuesday at the Court, and in any event," said one of those charged, "all responsible citizens are invited."

Editorial: police politics & protest

The trend toward the conversion of the City Police Force into a political police agency has been evident in the increasingly political statements of Police Chief Arthur Cookson. It has been dramatically confirmed and hastened by the events of the past week: the issuing of summonses to 12 persons on 'riot' charges and the accompanying public statements of the Police Chief.

First, it is clear the summoning of the 12 in connection with the demonstration against the U.S. Army band concert at Sheldon Williams is a political action. It will be remembered that the demonstration itself was a political action indicating opposition to the hosting of a band that does promotional work for the U.S. military now engaged in a genocidal imperialist war in South East Asia.

Secondly, the summonses were not served on the individuals concerned until 4 weeks after the alleged 'riot'. If the basis of the arrests was acts committed, the normal time for the arrests would have been that very night.

The third factor is the actual selection of persons. Out of the large number of demonstrators, those summonsed represent several groups the city or province has already tried to shut down. These include the University paper the 'Carillon', the American Deserters Union, a political group known as the Canadian Communist Movement (Marxist Leninist), the Red Nest (now renamed Group W), and the Prairie Fire.

The fourth factor is the political nature of the public statements made by Cookson, coinciding with the issuing of the summonses.

In an address reported in the Leader Post on June 10 Chief Cookson made a blistering attack on today's youth, and in particular those who are concerned about social problems. Cookson claimed that the majority of such people are 'immoral' and is sure there is an international conspiracy behind all this.

His public attacks on the ideas of socially conscious young people, with a determined attempt to link radicalism to immorality, make it difficult to escape the conclusion that these arrests herald a new wave of police repression.

Why would Cookson, or the Attorney General's Department want to silence the Prairie Fire? We do not advocate anywhere on our pages immorality or any of the other things of which Cookson accuses us.

It is because we are involved in a political struggle. In its 32 issues the Prairie Fire has supported farmers in their demands for a decent life. We have supported workers, especially hospital workers, in their campaign to prevent the government from legislating them into poverty. We have exposed injustice and brutality in the Regina Police Department, and raised real question about who the city council serves. We have also raised some embarrassing issues for the

provincial government.

The other groups hit are equally involved in a struggle against an unjust economic system that Cookson defends in the name of morality.

The Carillon has exposed government fraud, the deserters are resisting an immoral American war in Asia, the Group W Coffee House tries to be a place for young people whom this system has disinherited, and the Communist group has attempted to organize at other points against the rotten capitalist system.

This is not just political repression. It is an attempt to preserve a system that guarantees huge profits for the few and a barely adequate existence, if not outright poverty for the majority.

It is an attempt to intimidate those who have had enough guts to resist. But repression will not make this evil system any less evil. With your support the Prairie Fire will continue to back farmers, workers, students, street people, Indians, women and all other groups who comprise the vast majority of the population that is not getting a fair share of the incredible riches of our country.

Cookson and his cronies will not prevent the replacement of this system by a truly socialist one in which all human wants will be fulfilled.

We must defend the first 12 political victims in Regina. Defence groups will be announced soon. Their fight is our fight.

All power to the People.



NOTICE

Another youth hostel, the House of Zodar, is open at 1226 15th Ave. Accommodation is free. The time limit for residence is three days. Donations are needed. Send them to Jim Johnson at 1226 15th Ave. Regina.

Prairie Fire

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free the n.y. panther 21

SEND TEN BUCKS TO THE COMMITTEE TO DEFEND THE N.Y. PANTHER 21, 11 East 16th St. New York, NY, 16003 or TELEPHONE 243-2260, 61-51, AND RECEIVE:

ONE COPY OF HUEY NEWTON POSTER, ELBRIDGE CLEAVER ON THE IDEOLOGY OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY, COPIES OF MICHAEL TABOR'S STATEMENT ON HEROIN RECENT COPIES OF THE BLACK PANTHER NEWSPAPER, PROGRESS REPORT ON THE NY PANTHER 21 CASE, JEAN GENET ON THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY, POSTER DRAWN BY DHARUBA OF THE NY 21, and ASSORTED BUTTONS.



MONEY IS GREATLY NEEDED FOR BAIL.

YOUTHS FIGHT CN DISCRIMINATION

Up to 350 people, mostly in their teens and early twenties forced the business manager of the Hotel Bessborough to close the hotel beverage room last week.

The young people were provoked by a new policy of the publicly owned CN hotel which would have excluded from all public areas of the hotel those who in the opinion of management, were not properly groomed or dressed.

On Monday the manager, George McCabe, handed out a notice describing the new policy and outlined its reason. The notice said that out of town businessmen found the patrons of the pub objectionable, and were going to other hotels.

That evening about 150 people gathered in the pub and in the rotundas of the hotel in defiance of the new regulations, which prohibit, among other things, cut-offs or jeans with patches.

With few exceptions they were not served.

They did receive surprising support from patrons, including businessmen and conventioning Lutherans. After milling around the hotel until about 11 p.m. most of them left.

The following evening, the protest grew with about 350 people filling up the pub. The CBC was there with a TV crew. When the protesters were not served, all table service was shut down. There were sporadic chants of "People's Pub" and "We want beer".

MCCabe who was present, was confronted but refused to change his stand stating that the law was on his side giving him the power to refuse service to anyone.

A petition was passed around demanding that the manager retract his stand and serve everyone on an equal basis, and demanding that the CN take a stand for basic civil rights.

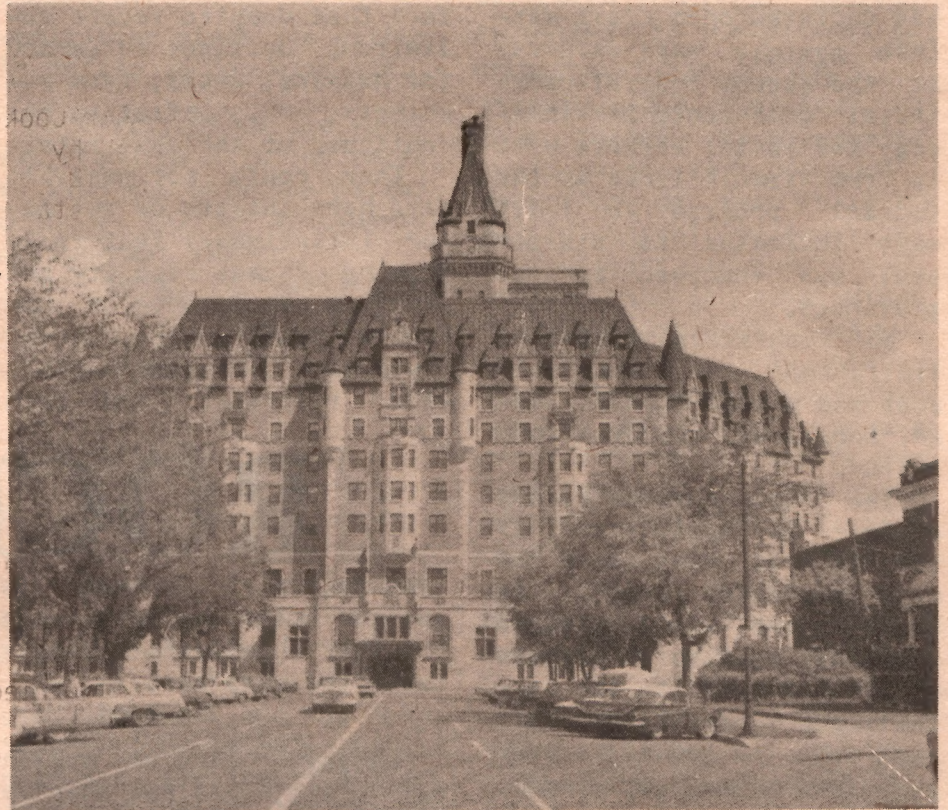
A collection was taken for beer and wine which was brought in from the outside and passed around.

After an efficient clean-up the demonstrators left as a group around midnight leaving no noticeable damage.

On Wednesday the beverage room was closed, allegedly for repairs. About 100 to 200 people gathered at the Hotel entrance in rainy weather and tried to get past the guards that blocked the one open door. After surging against the entrance several times a body of demonstrators broke through and everybody went in. McCabe decided that he should



HOTEL
Bessborough
SASKATOON, SASK.



appear to make a compromise which was that he and two spokesmen from the group would meet to discuss the new rules. The group said they would only meet in an open meeting with him. Mc-

Cabe, under pressure, went on to offer a meeting with 5 individuals from the group to set up an open meeting for Sunday June 14th to discuss dress and grooming regulations.

Despite the upcoming meeting, people are continuing to gather at the Bessborough every night to show their determination to see the end of such discrimination.

saskatoon students confront school board

The Saskatoon school board sold out the students of Saskatoon, the educational standards in that city, and themselves recently.

The high school students had organized themselves to fight Thatcher's 25:1 student-teacher ratio. The 'Students for a Better Education' had planned a walkout as part of their protest against the lower standard of education the 25:1 ratio will mean.

The 25:1 ratio will mean that more than 30 will be in each class because principals and librarians, etc., are counted in.

Creative instruction involves student participation not possible in such large classes. Even if a teacher wanted to start a discussion, he would have to try very hard to spark interest in 30-35 minds. Trying to interest that many students will be a very hard thing for most teachers to do.

The Students for Better Education developed a program to oppose the destruction of their learning environment. This program included a petition and a letter writing campaign to MLA's and to the government as well as the walkout. They wanted to convince the government that they were powerful and that they meant business.

They spent many hours in preparation work to build support among other students. On May 12 after two weeks of preparation, they released an article to the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix on the nature

and cause of their protest.

The events that followed this press release led to the destruction of the students as then constituted.

The May 13 edition of the SP carried another article that implied that students (without asking any) were against the walkout; the school board said it wanted the cooperation of the students who were organizing the walkout, and that the walkout be called off.

The SBE decided to meet with the Board later that week, but they did not call off the walkout.

On Saturday, May 16, the SP editorialized against the walkout, and questioned high school students' abilities to understand the problems of financing education.

On Tuesday, May 19, the Board and the SBE met. The SBE were willing to compromise if the Board presented any concrete suggestions. The Board was adamant in its position; it condemned the walkout, and spent its time criticizing the SBE for fighting the 25:1 ratio. They questioned the students' intelligence and doubted that they had the support of other students. In response to this line of questions, one student proposed an opinion poll; this suggestion was turned down by the Board.

Board member Edith Bater proposed teach-ins at the high school on the 27th, the proposed day of the walkout. The Board decided that they did not have enough time to prepare a teach-in and rejected her idea.

On Wednesday, May 20, TV teach-in proposals were released, then on the 21, the teach-in was once again called off by the Board. The committee of students held a meeting that day and decided the walkout was still on. On Friday, May 22, a small minority in the committee decided to call off the walkout. Since they got to the press first, the rest of the committee felt that they had to go along and make it look like a democratic decision. That night the planned petitioning was a failure. The minority of the committee which had vetoed the walkout did not help the few who did petition.

The SBE had spent so much time trying to co-operate with the Board that it had fallen behind in organizing in the schools. The press had swayed enough public opinion against them, and changed the focus of the issue from the 25:1 ratio to the question of students walking out of school.

The Committee had walked right into the trap laid for it by the School Board and the newspaper. They said they did not want to argue with the Board, and yet the Board with newspaper-formed public opinion had forced the weak ones in the group to buckle under. The mistake of the Committee was believing that the Board was willing to carry on meaningful dialogue with the students, and that it would get a fair shake from the establishment press.

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES FUEL INFLATION

The Trudeau government has declared open class warfare against wage earners. At the recent federal-provincial conference in Winnipeg, the postal workers were in the front lines as the federal program to limit wage increases to six per cent was endorsed by the provinces.

No assurances of similar limitations on interest, rent and profit were included. Labour was not even consulted.

The same approach became evident in agriculture, as the federal task force report came under review. Its basic theme was a ruthless proposal to curb government assistance and let the market force "inefficient" farmers into the growing struggle for urban employment. Farmers' views were ignored.

AID FOR CORPORATIONS

The federal government took an opposite approach toward huge corporations. While the "freeing" of the Canadian dollar hit farmers with a 6¢ reduction in wheat prices, Finance Minister Benson hurried to help corporate interests.

Instant action was taken to protect textile manufacturers with an import tax of up to \$2 each on low cost shirts. Farmers noted that while they are losing their shirts in the wheat business new ones will cost them \$2 more.

Also, it was revealed late in May that the Federal and Provincial governments had been offering cash and tax incentives to lure the American aerospace industry to Nova Scotia.

Ottawa was committed to buy 74 light observation helicopters at \$236,000 each, with options for 33 more. Major long-run contracts for Arctic Hovercraft were additional incentives. (Evidently more bribes were required. Textron Inc., the U.S. parent, changed its mind on the venture. See Financial Post, May 30, 1970.)

While farmers and workers were thus being thrown to the market bears, the general strategy of enticing U.S. conglomerates with subsidies and extravagant market guarantees was continuing on a lavish scale. The anti-labour, anti-farmer campaign was designed to further encourage the big companies. Protests by the victims were met with the fiction that demand must be reduced to beat inflation.

WAGE INCREASES BLAMED

Trudeau, Benson and Co.

have chosen to ignore the fact that despite recent calamitous declines in demand for housing, autos, farm machinery, etc., inflation has continued at the same rate.

They could not possibly have been unaware of two major inflationary factors -- growing excess capacity and industry insistence on improved profit incentives. Obviously, unemployment, wage restraints and farm

poverty have led to even greater unused capacity, and therefore to increased average costs. Monopolistic enterprises have then raised prices, not only to cover these costs, but also to promote even greater profits. (While complaining of lower profits in early 1970, the conglomerates boosted dividend payments by four per cent, according to the Financial Post (April 11,

1970.) The same publication also anticipated improving promises of easier credit and "attractive investments" in natural resources.)

Thus the federal government's new squeeze on workers and farmers can only encourage further inflation. But it is also helping workers and farmers to understand class war and to recognize their oppressors.

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ROCK RIP-OFF

"You take what you need and you leave the rest, But they should never have taken the very best."

The Band

Calgary-- They've stolen our music, and now they're selling it back to us. Money.



It explains a lot about the sweetness and light coming from Mayor Rod Sykes, why the cops are declaring a two-day holiday at McMahon Stadium, and how its slightly more OK to have long hair and the rest of it around the cultural wasteland known as Calgary.

The main reason is \$9 a head per day or \$14 for both days of the rock festival July 4 and 5.

The only question we'd better not ask is: "Whose music is this in the first place, anyway?"

MacLean-Hunter, the publishing company sponsoring the show-- and expecting to clear a million bucks from us just on gate receipts from four performances across the country-- doesn't care to debate ethics with young people.

What the company does care about is making a lot of bread, fast, and they're going to use us as much as possible in the process.

It adds up to one of the more ambitious projects in

the general cultural rip-off of youth across North America, aimed at turning everything and everybody possible into some sort of product, and beating or busting everybody who doesn't go along with it.

The final aim is to take

they catch us on their property; they all oppose legalizing dope and they won't give us jobs unless we cut our hair.

MacLean-Hunter isn't providing accommodation for people who come to see the show and they aren't providing much in the way of medical or sanitation services.

And they won't be providing immunity from police harassment the moment the show is over.

All they want to do is make sure there aren't too many visible hassles-- at least not in front of the cameras filming the show, so they can make more money selling it back to us a second time.

Neither the city nor the Calgary Stampede Board are wild about us either, but they both have their reasons for tolerating two days of rock festival and then probably re-lowering the boom on kids right afterwards.

Its great PR for friendly Calgary, the Stampede City, if the rock festival goes off with no hassles. A new with-it image, plus all that free advertising.

At the same time the Stampede Board can argue that the festival was a buy-off for kids who otherwise might foul-up their precious stampede. Then when they start chasing long-haired-- and unemployed --- kids away from the Corral the next week, they can say "they've already had their fun."

And, in all likelihood, the local police will get the go-ahead July 6 to begin the harassment which has become the hallmark of Calgary to most of the young people who travel through here.

The only change that's likely to have happened is that a lot of us will be lighter \$9 or \$14, and we still won't have our music or our culture back.

And MacLean-Hunter will have cleared another million plus residuals from movie and book rights.

peoples' creativity and turn it into a cultural topcoat you can take on and off-- for a price.

The nature of the process is getting more and more visible: George Wallace's daughter flashes a peace sign when her old man wins a racist election in Alabama.

Rod Sykes paints a parking meter for peace to open the East Village in Calgary, which only coincidentally drags kids away from Hudson Bay's private mall.

In honor of that kind of private initiative, the city of Calgary is willing to give the hippies a two-day reprieve from hassles, and a chance to listen to some good music-- provided we've got 9 or preferably 14 bucks.

MacLean-Hunter (publishers of Financial Post, Style, MacLean's and some fifty profitable "trade journals") likes to project the image of a turned-on company, but just about the only thing it's turned onto is our money.

The businessmen who run it will call the cops if

TAYLOR ENTERS NDP RACE

A fourth candidate entered the NDP leadership campaign last week. The newest candidate is George Taylor a Saskatoon lawyer and alderman.

Although it is late in the campaign, Mr. Taylor claims he is in the race to win, and that he has already received substantial support around the province. This

week the declared candidates are in the second of two weeks of leadership rallies throughout Saskatchewan, but it is not yet known if Mr. Taylor will participate in those that remain.

Taylor, thought by some to be in the left wing of the party will likely draw most of his votes from Blakeney and Romanow. Many of

their supporters are known to be unhappy with their candidates, but unwilling to commit themselves to either the Waffle or Don Mitchell.

Mitchell, at 26 the youngest candidate in the race, is also the only one so far to issue policy statements on important issues.

On June 3, Mitchell gave

a press conference on agricultural policy in which he advocated several radical solutions to the present agricultural crisis. His program included guarantee of farm incomes by government purchase of farm produce, reduction of farm costs by public control or ownership of implement and supply companies, and the elimination of high processing and retailing profits by taking these into public ownership as well. He also advocated a program he termed "Crown Land Assembly". This is a proposal under which farmers who wish to do so would be able to sell their land to the government, this liquidating their debts, and then lease it back permanently with the right to pass the lease on to heirs.

So far Blakeney has refused to give policy statements on the grounds that he does not want to impose his wishes on the party. This is in line with the preference of the party hierarchy to avoid, at all costs, debating policy and deal only with images.

The leadership convention will be held in Regina on July 2-4.

THE NEW LEFT IN CANADA

THE NEW LEFT IN CANADA, Dimitrios Roussopoulos, editor; Our Generation Press-Black Rose Books, Montreal.

"This is the first book in Canada on the new left by the new left...For the first time some of the best known activists put forward their tentative analyses of where we are at.", it modestly admits in its preface.

A book such as this would probably be valuable, not just for the new left, but for anyone interested in what the "left" is trying to do and what people in the movement have to say.

Unfortunately, Roussopoulos' *New Left in Canada* is not such a book. And we have yet to dig up a movement activist who thinks it is. The book would probably not be worthy of notice if it did not purport to contain an authoritative article about the 'left' in Quebec. We believe that this is misleading advertising, serious enough to be dealt with here.

There is precious little material available in English about the national liberation movement in Quebec. For Roussopoulos to pass off "The New Left in Quebec" by Adele Lauzon as a "sharp picture" by one of the "best known activists" is, to be kind, unscupulous deception.

The article is in fact an incomplete, innacurate and misfocussed analysis, and can only distort attempts by Canadians to understand what's happening in French Canada.

For the record, Lauzon has been at best marginal to left wing political movements on Quebec for the last few years (as has Roussopoulos himself for that matter). As a reporter for a large "establishment" newspaper, she is probably as sympathetic to the interests of the worker as can be reasonably expected under the circumstances; but it is serious distortion to describe her as "close to the Quebec left".

Lauzon's article reflects her marginal position in the Quebec movement. There is no description of the situation or the history of the people of Quebec. There is no analysis of the movement as an organic developing whole, of the problems it has dealt with and the problems before it, of the major tendencies and divisions existing in the left.

Instead, Lauzon goes through a flippant, Time-style behavioral description of various types of movement activists she has met. She does this not in terms of the political opinions they support and the kind of organizing they are into, but rather in terms of what she perceives as their lifestyles and psychological makeup. (Examples: the "schizophrenic revolutionaries", whose "ideology is expressed only in slogans"; or the "dandy-radicals" who "are not activists" but whom she nonetheless spends several pages describing.)

When Lauzon does "analyze" specific organizational formations in the Quebec movement, she prefaces her analysis with the blanket announcement that all are "living out an 'ideology' which is not their own", that none have strategies that derive from the particular situation of the Quebec working class.

This incredible statement appears in print as the *Comite Ouvrier St. Henri (St. Henri Workers' Committee)* enters its second year of grass roots organizing among poverty stricken workers in one of Montreal's slum districts, as the *Front de Liberation des Femmes (Women's Liberation Front)* begins

serious organizing around the specific nature of the oppression of women in Quebec (Lauzon, by the way, never mentions even the existence of a womens' movement); as the *Front de Liberation Populaire (peoples' Liberation Front)* publishes a six-point program derived directly from the needs of

A REVIEW

the people of Quebec, including the now famous demand for French unilingualism which is unique on the North American continent.

In short, Lauzon's "picture" of Quebec and the developing liberation movement is at best irrelevant and at worst misleading. It should not be interpreted as a guide to where things are at in Quebec.

Those who are concerned with what's happening east of the Ottawa River should look for alternative sources of material. I suggest contacting the Toronto Research Project at 328 Adelaide St. West, Toronto, Ontario.

BLACK ROSE BOOKS

announces the publication of

THE NEW LEFT IN CANADA

This is the first book in Canada by the new left on the new left. The few books that have already appeared in this country have been written or edited by outside observers. We have also been flooded with books dealing with the new left in the USA and elsewhere. Now for the first time some of the best known activists put forward their tentative analysis of where we are at. The book is based upon a regional analysis of Canada. Adele Lauzon looks at QUEBEC giving us a sharp picture of the socio-psychological mood of the radicals, Philip Resnick looks at ONTARIO and gives us a sense of its centrality, Nick Ternet examines MANITOBA. Richard Thompson gives us an analysis of SASKATCHEWAN and describes the politics of the official left organizations. Richard Price probes ALBERTA while Jim Harding gives us a detailed overview of BRITISH COLUMBIA. There is an introduction and a concluding section called TOWARDS A REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH MOVEMENT AND AN EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION. The book is edited by Dimitrios Roussopoulos.

There is a paperback and hardcover edition with photographs.

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MONTREAL 131

WORKERS WORLD

I have worked as a nursing aid for four years in one of Regina's major hospitals. During this period of time it has come to my attention that hospitals actually abuse medicine. Anyone working in such a situation couldn't deny this. Doctors prescribe pills to patients for the smallest aches and pains, most of these pills are not necessary but are rather a way of "keeping the patient off the doctor's back." Furthermore many of the pills so loosely distributed are narcotics which are habit forming. In the end it is the patient which must pay for the acts of some doctors. Thus it is found that many doctors exploit their patients by prescribing drugs and thus encouraging and maintaining the drug industry.

There are other segments of hospital work in which the patient gets the raw end of the deal. During report, (the gossip session) it is rather amazing, the hospital personnel will actually ridicule the actions of a patient, of course the patient is not present and thus the doctors and nurses can have a good laugh about the person. Is this hospital ethics?

Working on the wards has

definitely improved in my four years of hospital work. The amount of work I have to do now is fair but it is rather ridiculous in some instances such as when a young female attendant is required to bath a young male patient. In some cases, these male patients are particularly disturbed by the procedure, and it would be much better to ask an orderly to perform such duties—often the psychological aspect of the patients health is overlooked—for work must go on.

During the summer months work in the hospital is almost intolerable. On hot days the wards become extremely hot and, of course, there is no air conditioning. It is extremely difficult to work under such conditions even if the work load is reasonable. It is during these summer months that most bed patients die, presumably from the hot temperature during which their bodies must overwork to cope with the situation. It is interesting that in all of Regina's major hospitals the administration offices have very adequate air conditioning. It makes one wonder as to which is more important the administration of the hospital or the patients and ward workers.

ON THE PICKET LINE

THE POSTAL STRIKE

The federal government called in a negotiator to attempt to mediate the postal strike a few weeks ago. Within a few days, A.M. Carrothers, the mediator, gave up in disgust claiming that the two sides were too far apart to do any serious bargaining. In quitting, Carrothers made a point to the press that the deciding factor in the strike will be public opinion. He couldn't have been more right, and only a few days later Eric Kierans announced that the strikes were ruining the "chances of being a modern competitive enterprise". That is, he would like to exploit his workers like the rest of capitalist society does. This is the first sally in trying to turn public opinion against the postal workers, and in this, the capitalist press plays a large and willing part. Mr. Kierans' statements got front page headlines across Canada.

Regina is one of the few major mail sorting centers that has not as yet been hit by the strike presently rotating around the country. The Regina men, while fully aware of the fact that hitting the bricks will be expensive for them, are also aware that this is a fight that is necessary to earn decent wages and perhaps as important — decent working conditions. The Saskatchewan Postal Workers are ready to go out for as long as necessary to get the government to deal with them seriously. If that should occur in Regina, Prairie Fire readers should remember that while the strike may inconvenience them a bit, it really hits at business which does a huge amount of billing and other transactions by mail.

If the striking postal workers were to take time to explain to the public the real conditions they work under, and what they are asking for, they would get surprising support. Prairie Fire will be prepared to help in any way it can. But as the posties know, not everybody reads their mail and perhaps knocking on doors, or some other face-to-face contact would strengthen their position considerably.

PLUMBERS AND PIPEFITTERS

Local 179 of the Plumbers and Pipefitters are still striking against South Saskatchewan contractors after two months, and there seems to be no relaxation of the position of management. Management, has however enlisted the help of its friend, the Provincial Government on at least two occasions. Last week in the Follow the Leader column, Prairie Fire noted how Attorney-General Heald implied he would support scabbing. This week, they upped the ante by getting Ross Thatcher to hint that a "strike session" was in the offing. By this he meant the passing of a bill "more stringent than Bill 2", he said. We all know what happened to hospital workers when Bill 2 was invoked. They lost all the power they had and were totally at the mercy of the government.

The hospital workers got less than 4.5%.

The Prairie Fire points out that at the time of the Anti-Bill 2 campaign by the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour 3 months ago, we urged all workers to support the campaign. In a Labour Special we predicted "Union men will find that Bill 2, if successfully applied against civic employees, will soon be extended to include them. This is already happening in Ontario and B.C." At that time, we found apathy in the rest of the Trade Union Movement. Ken Busch, business manager of the striking Local 179, was "too busy" to see us about helping to pay for and distribute the Bill 2 Campaign Special. We suggest that if there had been a united reaction by the rest of the Labour movement, including the P&PF, then Thatcher would not have the strength to move as he is now doing. There is still time to defeat Bill 2 and all compulsory arbitration, but it will only be done if all workers pull together and stop being concerned about themselves alone.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

Also on the construction front, IBEW Local 2038 has been on strike now for almost 8 weeks. So far management has not even made an offer that is worth considering, and does not seem anxious in any way to do so. In the meanwhile, IBEW workers go without pay in the most lucrative time of the year. This points out one weakness of craft, as opposed to industrial unions. We wonder why the men in both IBEW and the Plumbers and Pipefitters prefer to organize themselves the way they do. There might well be some good ideas that we have not heard about, but would certainly like to do so.

NEAR THE PICKET LINE — A TEACHERS' STRIKE

Over 1000 teachers from Area 4 including Regina have voted to take a strike vote on, or before June 12. The teachers have no other alternative, given the intransigent stand of the bargaining committees. The government is trying to squeeze allowances, and cut out maternity leaves, in addition to raising the teacher-student ratio.

The teachers should take a look at the battles fought by the labour movement over the years and learn a few tricks from the veterans of several government campaigns. For too long, teachers have told each other that they are 'professionals'. Now they have to face the cruel reality that government respects not professionalism, but power — a lesson the trade union movement learned some time ago, (although it seems to forget from time to time). Teachers have not yet made their case clear to the public, and should not rely on the mass media, largely controlled by the capitalist interests, to do it for them. Why don't the teachers call a meeting of all parents in their area and explain their case? Teachers are discovering that they are part of the working class just like the rest of us. They will need the support of the workers to get what they need. We will help them do that in any way we can.

SEND WHEAT TO VIETNAM

As the United States puts still greater pressure on the Vietnamese people, the people of the world look for ways to express their concern for the suffering people of this war-torn country.

The Wheat for Vietnam Committee offers Canadian farmers a way to help the hungry people of Vietnam, by pledging some of

their surplus wheat to Vietnam on the understanding that the pledges will not be charged against wheat delivery quotas.

In addition to aiding the Vietnamese people in their day-to-day struggle for survival, this program will help to deplete some of Canada's vast wheat surplus as well as create ties with other countries which may buy their wheat from Canada when the struggle for an independent Southeast Asia is won.

SEND WHEAT TO VIETNAM



WHEAT FOR VIETNAM COMMITTEE
Box 1361, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

I Pledge _____ bushels of wheat as a donation to the Vietnamese People, on the understanding that it will not be charged against my wheat delivery quota.

I donate \$ _____ to help meet the costs of this campaign, with any surplus to be given to medical aid in Vietnam through the Canadian Aid for Vietnam Civilians, Edmonton or Vancouver.

(signature)

(address)

WHY Follow THE LEADER?

COOKSON STRIKES AGAIN

Speaking to a meeting of the Saskatchewan Fire Chiefs' Association our eloquent police chief, Arthur G. Cookson once again made the Leader Post "Third Page" (June 10), and predictably predicted that trouble will continue.

The Leader-Post story provides some excellent insights into the prevailing philosophy of our 'law and order' Chief.

Cookson's rhetoric closely resembles that of such extreme right-wingers as Spiro Agnew. His attack is staged against 'perpetrators of violence, immorality, and the drug culture.' Somehow, in the midst of his tirade against evil libertines, freedom of the press, four letter words, pornography, perversion, and youth, he manages to work in a comparison of the Nazis and today's young people.

The PRAIRIE FIRE offers a small comparison of its own. Cookson's sermon is reminiscent of the following infamous quote:

"The streets of our country are in turmoil. The universities are filled with students rebelling and rioting. Communists are seeking to destroy our country...We need law and order. Yes, without law and order our nation cannot survive. Elect us and we shall restore law and order."

Adolph Hitler, Hamburg, 1932

This places our chief's comparison of youth and the Nazis in a slightly different perspective.

On the same page Cookson gets a little more space by stating that the federal bail reform bill "might make things easier for the criminal".

In this story Cookson displayed his usual arrogance for the law by referring to recent lottery, homosexuality, and abortion reforms as favouring criminals.

Cookson also advocated that the "repeat criminal should not be allowed bail", which is indicative of his personal attitude to the phrase — innocent until proven guilty.

It would seem that Cookson would be better to press for prison reforms.

Jails and prisons have little value in rehabilitating criminals; instead, one prison sentence often leads to another. Cookson's archaic impression is that criminals should be hidden rather than helped.

A BOLD CONCEPT INDEED

The June 9 Leader-Post carried an editorial from the Montreal Gazette. This editorial dealt with the establishment of a continental energy policy.

This policy, it claimed, would provide rational distribution of resources

and would assure Canada of the only "conceivable market for its abundant energy surplus".

"The United States", this editorial goes on to say, "is not poised to seize our oil, natural gas and water — no, it wants to buy them....quite a different matter."

"Energy is a commodity," says the editorial, "just like grain, ore and pulpwood."

The Leader-Post should take close note of some of the facts concerning the question of control of our resources. As early as 1964, 62% of Canadian petroleum and natural gas, for example, was American-controlled.

It's no longer a question of the U.S. buying our resources. In most significant areas, they already own or control them.

'Rational distribution' to the U.S. means, naturally, getting what they want. Why they should settle for less is not clear. And why this should leave us with *enough* — is even less clear. It is pure day-dreaming.

THE EDITORIALS ARE ONE-SIDED, TOO

On June 8th, the Leader-Post led off its editorial column with one called "The Protests are One-Sided". This editorial suggested that the communists in Vietnam are guilty of war crimes, and wondered why the "anti-Vietnam-War humanitarians" are not protesting these "communist inspired deaths" as well.

The United States forces murder Vietnamese civilians, whom they claim are communists. These deaths are considered as part of the war toll, and the Leader-Post seems to believe that this is alright, or at any rate, certainly not a war crime.

Surely, then the LP should apply these same standards of logic to the other side. If the communists kill civilians who are supporting the Americans, these deaths should be considered as also being part of the war toll, and not war crimes.

Listing the total killed as 5800, the LP asserts that "Unquestionably, the finds at Hue rank with the worst Nazi atrocities of the Second World War."

To suggest that 5800 deaths even approaches the wholesale slaughter of several millions of people is ridiculous. In any event, it is far from clear that the defenders at Hue did those murders. Evidence suggests that it was the work of the U.S.-supported South Vietnamese Army.

These gross distortions of the Leader-Post are good examples of how following the Leader can distort one's perception of any situation. The LP applies the same double-standard to most stories and editorials.

MEDIA AT SUFFIELD SEEN BUT NOT HEARD

On the weekend of May 29, a variety of representatives of the country's communication agencies came to Medicine Hat, Alberta, to cover the impending Suffield demonstration. Among these were reporters from the local radio, TV and newspaper outlets, also representatives of the Canadian Press, the CTV and CBC television networks.

An encouraging start! Of course, the media are themselves ever quick to remind us that, existing in the 'free world' with a 'free press', the public interest is always their primary consideration. The rhetoric so characteristic of the mass media assures us that we have ever ready access to a wide diversity of opinion on all matters of importance. In fact, the agencies of mass communication are constantly stressing their single-minded devotion to the cause of adequately informing people. Remember the Supreme Court platitude of some 30 years ago: "Democracy cannot be maintained without its foundation, free public opinion and free discussion. . . ."

And surely Suffield is an extremely important question, in spite of the fact that many Canadians do not seem to know that it exists. Should they not be made aware that gases, tested and perfected at Suffield and Shirley Bay, have been used in Vietnam since 1962? Should they not know that these bring a usual 10 per cent fatality rate among Indochinese villagers but more nearly 50 per cent among

old people, children, pregnant women and the ill? Should Canadians not be told that our authorities boast of having developed a more effective type of napalm, of having designed a new, improved flame-dispersing rocket for spreading gas or bacteria, both now in use by the U.S. military in South-East Asia? Should they not also know that Canada's defence authorities attempt to justify Suffield by the fraudulent claim that only "purely defensive" research is undertaken there? Do not purveyors of information have a responsibility to remind Canadians that Canada signed the Geneva Convention of 1925, which banned the use of such weapons? Is it not essential to tell Canadians over and over again if need be, that, as a member of the International Control Commission Canada has an international responsibility to maintain a neutral, not a belligerent, status in the Vietnam war? Canadians might also be interested in knowing that Suffield researchers recently have been turning their attention to crowd-control agents — "something that will clear up the main streets Saturday night" — in the words of the former Suffield director. Perhaps, before too long, Canadians will find themselves victims, like the Indochinese, of the ingenuity of those so-called scientists willing to prostitute their science to meet the wishes of the American corporate-military establishment.

These points and many others of

a fundamental nature were brought out by various participants in the Suffield demonstration — Canada's deep involvement in the genocidal war in Indochina, the sham of Canadian neutrality, Canadian subservience in the face of American imperialism, and the like.

It is instructive to note that so far as has been possible to discover none whatever of this information was relayed to the people of Canada. Whether interested or not, people across the country were given no access to workshop findings or to views expressed by any of the half-dozen special speakers or those of any of the participants. So far as can be determined no reports of the demonstration appeared in the daily newspapers of Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina or Winnipeg. And this in spite of the fact that a news release was provided to the Canadian press immediately prior to the demonstration, and in spite of the presence of a Canadian press representative on the scene of the events.

It appears that nothing was carried on national television beyond a short, highly inaccurate news item emanating from the Edmonton office of the CBC and carried on the 11:00 p.m. national television news May 31. It is reported that local Medicine Hat news outlets gave relatively full and objective accounts of the three workshops, a reasonably accurate estimate of the numbers present, and a fair reportage of the formal session at the Suffield

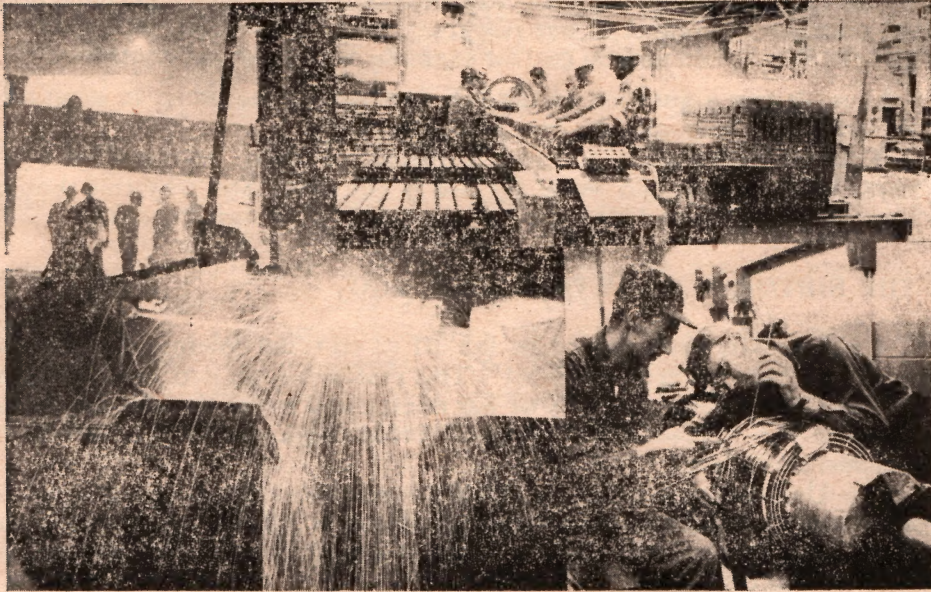
gates. However, few participants in the demonstration were able to verify the adequacy of these accounts, since the majority were housed in a camp site two miles from the city and far from access to television, newspaper or even radio facilities.

In any case, possibly excepting the local news outlets, the performance of the country's media on this vital national question presents a sorry spectacle. It is surely time Canadians began to cut through the welter of platitudes, the high-flown rhetoric surrounding the news media, and to ask some basic and pointed questions about this aspect of Canadian public life: is it really so strange that the Suffield establishment, in existence since 1941, should be unknown to so many Canadians? Do the news media in Canada have any genuine concern with providing Canadians with adequate, reasonably objective information? Or do they function as pillars of the ruling-class establishment, concerned primarily with managing public opinion and maintenance of the status quo? Do news media activities in a capitalist society such as ours boil down to a conscious engendering of ignorance in the general population? Is there any reasonable basis for expecting that news media overwhelmingly owned and controlled by corporate business can function other than in support of the interests, the privileges, the power of those who own and control them.

Regina's profit picture looks even brighter for new or expanded industrial plant sites. Under the Federal Government's Regional Development Incentive Act, an industry in the manufacturing or processing field can qualify for a grant by locating, expanding, or modernizing in Regina.

Regina.

Now designated as a special area.



Skilled labor force

Regina has some pluses to offer industry, too.

The high per-capita labor force for one, which includes both skilled and unskilled labor.

And when the planned new vocational and technical school opens there will be even more skilled labor available.

Management potential is here, too.

Each year the Regina campus of the University of Saskatchewan graduates hundreds of students with BA's and MBA's.

A majority of these graduates plan to make Regina their home.

Low minimum wage

The low minimum wage, \$1.25 per hour, is another factor management can't afford to overlook, especially when minimum wages in every other province are higher and climbing for the same degree of skilled labor.

Industrial park

The pre-serviced industrial park in northern Regina is a natural setting for a plant site.

Serviced by thoroughfares and just a turn off the Trans-Canada highway, it's located in the centre of Regina's railroad yards and interchanges.

A good place to live and work

Regina's a good place to do business and a good place to live.

There's all the room of the prairies, fresh air (smog? it isn't in our dictionary) and plenty of winter and summer sports, both the participating and spectating variety.

It's close to lakes, a short drive to some of the best summer resorts and 45 minutes away from a growing ski area.

Culturally, Regina's no write off, either.

There's abundant evening entertainment, art shows, local theatre presentations and the newly opened Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts offers the finest variety of world renowned entertainers to be found anywhere in Canada.

For further information on industrial Regina and how your company can benefit under the Regional Development Incentive Act, contact:

Jack Walker,
Development and
Public Relations,
P.O. Box 1790,
Regina, Saskatchewan.
Better still,
phone 522-1621.

Regina.
A site
worth
looking at.

The advertisement above appeared in the May 9th issue of the "Financial Post". It evoked this statement of protest from the Regina Labour Council, which appeared in the local news media:

"This advertisement purports to attract industry to Regina and certainly we, like other citizens, are in sympathy with that objective. However, we strongly object to the way the city has gone about it.

The lead paragraph says that a prime reason why industry should locate in Regina is because of the low minimum wage in Saskatchewan. It says it is the lowest scale in Canada. Surely, this is nothing to boast about."

Under this pressure from Labour, Mayor Baker has now denied knowing about the ad, and claims he "does not condone" such statements.

It is important that this advertisement be seen to symbolize the type of leadership offered by Regina's political officials.

Regina's municipal politics could be wrapped up neatly and called the watershed of a once much purer CCF mainstream.

Fellows like Henry Baker and Charles Williams appear to believe that they have rescued Regina from the horrors of the old left wing, and that anything must be done to keep it from regaining strength. These men are

said by some to be sell-out artists who would never agree to go back to left wing politics.

They have been characterized as tweedledum and tweedledee NDP types, who differ on principal rather negligibly with their Liberal and Tory counterparts. The one significant difference worthy of notice is that these characters come like laundry detergent, in boxes, which deceive the consumer, in the exact amount of soap contained therein. What they seem to be saying, basically is that the status quo shall be maintained, but that soapfully, we shall maintain it better than the Liberals or Tories.

Charlie Williams, one-time Minister of Labour for the CCF and Mayor Baker, almost as a matter of policy it might be contended, refuse to appoint trade unionists to civic positions. Williams, after twenty years in the CCF government went on record in favour of Thursday night shopping, knowing well that store clerks are underpaid and work under poor conditions.

Men like Baker and Williams, who pose as the friends of the working man, should be seen for exactly what they are. Nothing will do this better than the actions of Baker and Williams themselves.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

I think PRAIRIE FIRE should start to help the NDP party instead of hurting it.

You forget the basic political axiom: To instigate social reforms a party must first be elected. As one party, the NDP can't lose this next provincial election; if split, it can't win.

I've read about the lies printed by the *Leader-Post* (then the *Regina Leader*) back in the 20's, when the Wheat Pool was being organized — some of them being slanderous remarks about my own father. But the motivation for these statements was obvious and hence their falsity — so their eventual result was nil.

The lies you tell, both directly and by implication — whereby Alan Blakeney is described as a "stolid" conservative and Schreyer, Blakeney and Romanow are said to oppose "radical social change" — are much more harmful, since their motivation is idealistic rather than malicious.

If repeated often enough, the nonsense printed by the PRAIRIE FIRE will split the party and enable those Liberal racketeers to gain

yet another term in office.

If you do nothing else, try to remember the reforms passed or advocated by what you call the "party hierarchy", e.g., medicare and zero tuition fees. The worth of the first is indicated by Thatcher's attempt to abolish it via deterrent fees; the worth of the second, by Liberal increase of tuition so that only the rich students can afford college.

Both these measures are advocated by people whom you stigmatize as right-wing conservatives.

An NDP victory requires a mixture of idealism and common sense. You people have all of the first and none of the second.

Sincerely,

Leland Sapiro

Attention:

The PRAIRIE FIRE needs you. Send us articles, letters, and information. Help us to make the paper a better one.

Prairie Fire

The Capitalist's



*Is in his pocketbook
And he uses the*



Over you so he can wear



*By organizing right we
can give him a*



*With which to earn an
honest living.*

SUBSCRIBE

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

MAIL TO: THE REGINA COMMUNITY MEDIA PROJECT
210 NORTHERN CROWN BUILDING
REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN

SEND ME: _____
4 months, 16 issues, \$3.00 _____ 1 year, 52 issues, \$8.00
_____ an honorary, \$50.00

Payment enclosed _____ Bill me _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____